



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 7, 2007

S. 126

A bill to modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park, and for other purposes

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on May 23, 2007*

SUMMARY

S. 126 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire approximately 360 acres to be added to Mesa Verde National Park. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing S. 126 would cost \$12 million over the 2008-2012 period. Enacting S. 126 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COSTS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 126 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	2	10	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	2	2	3	3	2

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 126 will be enacted near the end of 2007 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year. The legislation would authorize the NPS to acquire 360 acres of land adjacent to Mesa Verde National Park. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO estimates that it would spend \$2 million in 2008 to purchase a 324-acre tract of land called the Henneman property.

In addition, CBO understands that an additional 38 acres owned by the Mesa Verde Foundation would be donated to the NPS in 2008. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, we estimate that the agency would spend about \$10 million over the 2009-2012 period to construct a visitor facility on the donated land. That estimate is based on information from the NPS. Some federal construction costs could be offset by private donations to the NPS or through cost-sharing arrangements with the Mesa Verde Foundation.

We estimate that annual expenses to administer lands acquired under the bill, including those to operate the new visitor facility, would be less than \$100,000.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 126 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined by UMRA and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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